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ABSTRACT

Of an estimated 11.2 million persons in the United States identifying themselves as being of Hispanic origin in spring 1976, 3 out of 4 were native born. As a group, they had a high degree of Spanish-language maintenance. The degree of current Spanish-language usage was much lower among those born in the United States than among those born in a Spanish-speaking country. These findings and others released in the bulletin presented here are from the spring 1976 Survey of Income and Education. Other findings are reported under the following headings: (1) Hispanic orgin subgroups; (2) nativity; (3) current language, origin and nativity; (4) source of data; (5) related reports; and (6) a glossary of terms used in the report. Seven statistical tables accompany the report. (AMH)

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National Center for Education Statistics

BULLETIN

78B-6

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE / Education Division

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PLACE OF BIRTH AND LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS OF HISPANIC ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES, SPRING 1976

Of an estimated 11.2 million persons in the United States identifying themselves as being of Hispanic origin in spring 1976, 3 out of 4 were native born (born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or another outlying U.S. area). As a group, they had a high degree of Spanish-language maintenance, as evidenced by the language spoken in their households and their usual language.

Four out of 5 (8.9 million persons) lived in Spanish-speaking households and 1 in 3 (3.7 million persons) usually spoke Spanish. The degree of current Spanish-language usage was much lower among those born in the United States than among those born in Puerto Rico or Mexico, Cuba or another foreign country.

These findings, and the others released in this bulletin by Marie D. Eldridge, Administrator of the National Center for Education Statistics, are from the spring 1976 Survey of Income and Education.

HISPANIC ORIGIN SUBGROUPS

Of those identifying themselves as of Hispanic origin, 2 out of 3, almost 6.8 million, were Mexican Americans. There were just over 1.6 million persons of Puerto Rican origin, about .8 million Central or South Americans, slightly more than .7 million Cubans and almost 1.3 million persons of mixed or other Hispanic origin.

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NATIVITY

Three-quarters, or almost 8.4 million, of the Hispanics were native born. Virtually all Puerto Ricans in the United States were native born, but half, just over .8 million, were born in Puerto Rico rather than on the mainland. Only 21 percent of Mexican Americans, slightly more than 1.4 million, were born in Mexico or another foreign country. However, the majority of Cubans and persons of Central or South American origin, 80 and 69 percent, respectively, were born abroad.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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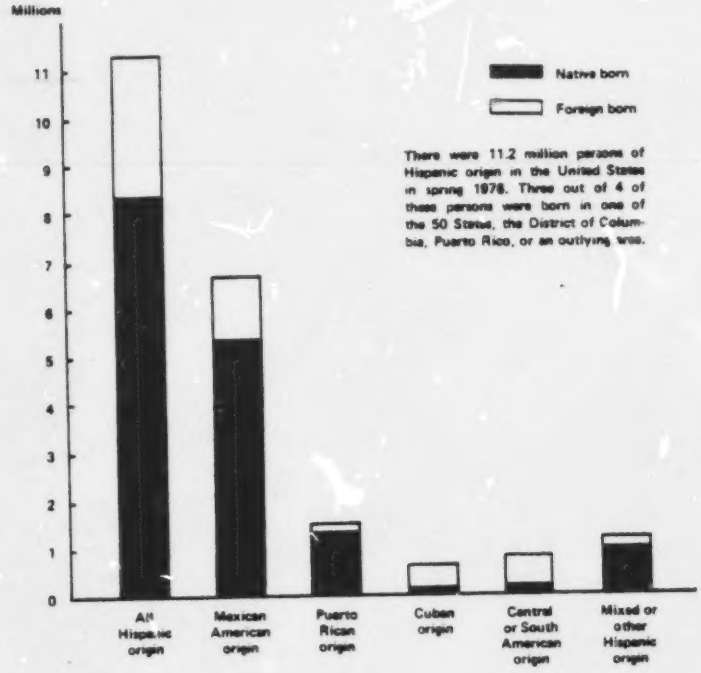
NCES 78-135

CHART.--Persons of Hispanic origin in the United States, spring 1976



CURRENT LANGUAGE, ORIGIN AND NATIVITY

Four of five Hispanics lived in Spanish-speaking households. A third of all Hispanics, just over 3.7 million, usually spoke Spanish. These proportions varied among subgroups. Cubans had the largest proportion of persons with current Spanish-language exposure and usage. Ninety-six percent of persons of Cuban origin lived in Spanish-speaking households and more than half of them usually spoke Spanish. Central or South Americans had the lowest proportion of persons living in Spanish-speaking households--about 3 out of 4. Mexican Americans had the lowest proportion usually speaking Spanish--about 3 out of 10.

More persons born in Puerto Rico or in Mexico, Cuba, or another foreign country lived in Spanish-speaking households than persons born in the United States. While majorities of each Spanish-origin group who were born in the United States lived in Spanish-speaking households, the proportions were 10 to 20 percent lower for each group than for persons born in Puerto Rico or a foreign country. For example, 95 percent of Mexican-born persons, compared with 77 percent of U.S.-born persons of Mexican-American origin, lived in Spanish-speaking households.

Place of birth and use of Spanish as the usual language were also highly related. Among Mexican Americans born in Mexico, Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico, and Cubans born in Cuba, about two-thirds spoke Spanish as their usual language. In contrast, among those of corresponding heritages born in the United States, fewer than 20 percent spoke Spanish as their usual language.

SOURCE OF DATA

The Survey of Income and Education (SIE) was conducted by the Bureau of the Census in spring 1976. The SIE questions on language background and current usage were developed by NCES, which provided partial financial support to augment the SIE sample and to add the language questions.

The survey sample consisted of independent samples from all 50 States and the District of Columbia, totaling about 160,000 occupied households. For methodological details about the SIE, see "Assessment of the Accuracy of the Survey of Income and Education" (report to Congress as mandated by the Education Amendments of 1974, submitted by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, dated January 1978).

RELATED REPORTS

The SIE provides, for the first time, State estimates of current language usage as well as language background. In part, the SIE helps to satisfy a congressional mandate to NCES (P.L. 93-380, section 105) to report the number of school-age children and adults with non-English-language backgrounds who have limited English-speaking ability. Companion bulletins on place of birth, geographic distribution, age distribution, school progress, and dropout rates of language minorities in the United States have recently been released.

A future report to Congress, as called for in P.L. 93-380, will provide an estimate of the number of persons with non-English-language backgrounds who have limited-English-speaking ability.

Information about NCES activities in these areas may be obtained from Dr. Dorothy Waggoner at (202) 245-3397.

TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

Hispanic or Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin were identified on the basis of a question asking for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin, or the origin of some other household member, from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Persons of Mexican-American origin were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, or Mexicano. Other persons of Hispanic origin reported Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish-language-area origin.

Nativity. Native-born persons are those who were born in one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or another outlying area. Foreign-born persons are those who were born in a foreign country.

Language characteristics. Language characteristics were determined on the basis of a series of questions about mother tongue (the language usually spoken in the home of a person aged 14 or older during childhood), the usual household language, any other language currently spoken in the household, and the language usually spoken by an individual household member.

English-language background. The background of a person 14 years of age or older with English mother tongue currently living in a household in which only English is spoken and/or of a child below 14 years of age in an English-only household.

Spanish-language background. The background of a person 14 years of age or older with Spanish mother tongue and/or a person of any age living in a household in which Spanish is currently spoken.

English-only household. A household in which English is the only language spoken.

Spanish-language household. A household in which Spanish is spoken either as the usual language or the second household language.

Usual individual language. The language usually spoken by an individual in a Spanish-language household.

TABLE 1.--Estimated numbers of persons of Hispanic origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: Spring 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born				Foreign born			
		Total	United States	Puerto Rico	Other outlying areas	Total	Mexico	Cuba	Other foreign country
Total persons of Hispanic origin	1/11,193	8,353	7,515	826	(*)	2,840	1,408	586	846
With English-language backgrounds	1,601	1,546	1,543	(*)	(*)	55	(*)	(*)	49
With Spanish-language backgrounds	2/9,425	6,688	5,871	807	(*)	2,737	1,402	584	752
In English-only households	466	348	314	34	(*)	117	48	(*)	59
In Spanish-language households	3/8,943	6,330	5,554	766	(*)	2,613	1,347	573	693
With English usual individual language	3,980	3,296	3,049	245	(*)	684	275	176	233
With Spanish usual individual language	3,711	1,827	1,312	509	(*)	1,884	1,047	394	443

*Fewer than 15,000 persons.

1/Includes an estimated 145,000 persons with non-Spanish non-English language backgrounds and an estimated 22,000 persons whose language backgrounds were not reported.
2/Includes an estimated 17,000 persons with Spanish mother tongue but non-Spanish non-English household languages.
3/Includes an estimated 855,000 children aged 3 and younger for whom information on individual languages was not obtained and an estimated 392,000 persons whose individual languages were not reported.

NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 2.--Estimated numbers of persons of Mexican-American origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: Spring 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born				Foreign born			
		Total	United States	Puerto Rico	Other outlying areas	Total	Mexico	Cuba	Other foreign country
Total persons of Mexican-American origin	1/6,797	5,366	5,365	(*)	(*)	1,432	1,394	(*)	38
With English-language backgrounds	960	945	945	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
With Spanish-language backgrounds	5,793	4,380	4,379	(*)	(*)	1,413	1,390	(*)	23
In English-only households	279	235	235	(*)	(*)	44	44	(*)	(*)
In Spanish-language households	2/5,505	4,143	4,143	(*)	(*)	1,361	1,338	(*)	23
With English usual individual language	2,548	2,266	2,266	(*)	(*)	281	271	(*)	(*)
With Spanish usual individual language	2,107	1,055	1,055	(*)	(*)	1,052	1,042	(*)	(*)

*Fewer than 15,000 persons.

1/Includes an estimated 32,000 persons with non-Spanish non-English language backgrounds.
2/Includes an estimated 554,000 children aged 3 and younger for whom information on individual languages was not obtained and an estimated 294,000 persons whose individual languages were not reported.

NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 3.--Estimated numbers of persons of Puerto Rican origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: Spring 1976
(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total[1/]	Native born			
		Total	United States	Puerto Rico	Other Outlying areas
Total persons of Puerto Rican origin	2/1,603	1,593	779	812	(*)
With English-language backgrounds	94	94	91	(*)	(*)
With Spanish-language backgrounds	1,488	1,479	682	795	(*)
In English-only households	61	61	29	32	(*)
In Spanish-language households	3/1,422	1,412	653	757	(*)
With English usual individual language	629	623	384	237	(*)
With Spanish usual individual language	617	613	106	507	(*)

*Fewer than 15,000 persons.

1/ Includes an estimated 10,000 persons of Puerto Rican origin born in foreign countries.
2/ Includes an estimated 15,000 persons with non-Spanish non-English language backgrounds.
3/ Includes an estimated 138,000 children aged 3 and younger for whom information on individual languages was not obtained and an estimated 38,000 persons whose individual languages were not reported.

SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 4.--Estimated numbers of persons of Cuban origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: Spring 1976

(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born				Foreign born			
		Total	United States	Puerto Rico	Other outlying areas	Total	Mexico	Cuba	Other foreign country
Total persons of Cuban origin	714	133	129	(*)	(*)	581	(*)	573	(*)
With English-language backgrounds	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
With Spanish-language backgrounds	702	124	120	(*)	(*)	578	(*)	570	(*)
In English-only households	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
In Spanish-language households	1/689	122	117	(*)	(*)	567	(*)	560	(*)
With English usual individual language	236	69	65	(*)	(*)	167	(*)	167	(*)
With Spanish usual individual language	408	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	396	(*)	390	(*)

*Fewer than 15,000 persons.

1/ Includes an estimated 30,000 children aged 3 and younger for whom information on individual languages was not obtained and an estimated 16,000 persons whose individual languages were not reported.

NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 5.--Estimated numbers of persons of Central or South American origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: Spring 1976
(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born				Foreign born			
		Total	United States	Puerto Rico	Other outlying areas	Total	Mexico	Cuba	Other foreign country
Total persons of Central or South American origin	1/809	251	250	(*)	(*)	558	(*)	(*)	557
With English-language backgrounds	98	65	65	(*)	(*)	33	(*)	(*)	33
With Spanish-language backgrounds	663	177	176	(*)	(*)	487	(*)	(*)	486
In English-only households	43	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	41	(*)	(*)	41
In Spanish-language households	2/620	174	173	(*)	(*)	446	(*)	(*)	445
With English usual individual language	212	57	57	(*)	(*)	155	(*)	(*)	154
With Spanish usual individual language	315	31	31	(*)	(*)	284	(*)	(*)	284

*Fewer than 15,000 persons.

1/ Includes an estimated 47,000 persons with non-Spanish non-English language backgrounds.
2/ Includes an estimated 77,000 children aged 3 and younger for whom information on individual languages was not obtained and an estimated 15,000 persons whose individual languages were not reported.

NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, spring 1976.

TABLE 6.--Estimated numbers of persons of mixed or other Hispanic origin in the United States, by place of birth and language characteristics: Spring 1976
(Numbers in thousands)

Language characteristics	Total	Native born				Foreign born			
		Total	United States	Puerto Rico	Other outlying areas	Total	Mexico	Cuba	Other foreign country
Total persons of mixed or other Hispanic origin	1/1,272	1,012	994	(*)	(*)	260	(*)	(*)	234
With English-language backgrounds	439	434	434	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
With Spanish-language backgrounds	780	529	515	(*)	(*)	250	(*)	(*)	225
In English-only households	70	48	45	(*)	(*)	22	(*)	(*)	18
In Spanish-language households	2/ 708	480	469	(*)	(*)	229	(*)	(*)	208
With English usual individual language	356	282	278	(*)	(*)	74	(*)	(*)	62
With Spanish usual individual language	265	115	110	(*)	(*)	149	(*)	(*)	140

* Fewer than 15,000 persons.

1/ Includes an estimated 50,000 persons with non-Spanish non-English language backgrounds.
2/ Includes an estimated 57,000 children aged 3 and younger for whom information on individual languages was not obtained and an estimated 29,000 persons whose individual languages were not reported.

NOTE.--Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

SOURCE: Survey of Income and Education conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, spring 1976

SURVEY OF INCOME AND EDUCATION
APPROXIMATE STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATED NUMBERS[1/]

Size of estimate	Standard error
15,000	9,000
25,000	11,000
50,000	16,000
75,000	19,000
100,000	22,000
150,000	27,000
250,000	34,000
500,000	50,000
750,000	61,000
1,000,000	70,000
1,500,000	86,000
2,500,000	110,000
5,000,000	155,000
7,500,000	189,000
10,000,000	217,000
15,000,000	263,000

1/ The standard errors given above, provided by the Census Bureau, are based on some distributions from the 1970 Census and on some factors derived from other sources, not on direct calculations from the sample data. When direct calculations are made, it is likely that most of the standard error estimates will be somewhat lower.